

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/885,736

Examiner

Kambiz Zand

Applicant(s)

KAWAGUCHI ET AL.

Art Unit

2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed on 12/28/2005 and Interview conducted on 02/28/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-12 and 15 now, re-numbered as claims 1-12.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

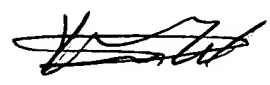
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 09/24/2001
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date enclosed.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


KAMBIZ ZAND
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION
EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Richard J. Katz on 02/28/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1

(Currently amended) A justification authenticating system comprising:

- a database for storing an identifier of a personal certificate and digital watermark information related to said identifier;
- a personal certificate[, which is at least one of a card type or a book type,] containing said identifier;
- said personal certificate also containing a readable authentic image in which a digital watermark relative to said identifier is embedded;
- a read unit operable to read at least said authentic image from said personal certificate;

a watermark information inquiring unit operable to extract digital watermark information corresponding to said identifier from said authentic image; and

a watermark information comparing unit operable to judge whether said digital watermark information extracted by said watermark information inquiring unit from said personal certificate is identical to said watermark information stored in said database; and

a unit operable to update said digital watermark information stored in said database and said digital watermark information embedded in said authentic image in said personal certificate each time said watermark information inquiring unit judges said digital watermark information to be justifiable.

Claim 8

(Currently amended) A personal certificate issuing system comprising:

an identifier generating unit operable to generate an identifier unique to a personal certificate[, wherein the personal certificate is at least one of a card type or a book type];

a watermark information generating unit operable to generate digital watermark information corresponding to said identifier;

a database for storing said identifier of said personal certificate and said digital watermark information relative to said identifier in relation to each other;

a watermark information registering unit operable to store said identifier generated by said identifier generating unit and said digital watermark information generated by said watermark information generating unit in said database;

an image input unit operable to input a raw authentic image;

a watermark-embedded image forming unit operable to form a watermark-embedded authentic image in which said digital watermark is embedded on said authentic image input by said image input unit; and

a personal certificate that readably carries said authentic image generated by said watermark-embedded image forming unit and said identifier generated by said identifier generating unit;

wherein said digital watermark information stored in said database and embedded in said authentic image of said personal certificate is update according to predetermined timing, and said predetermined timing includes each time said system correctly justifies an authentic image.

Claim 16

Cancelled.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this

application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/28/2005 has been entered.

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this section can be found in the prior office action.
4. The prior office actions are incorporated herein by reference. In particular, the observations with respect to claim language, and response to previously presented arguments.
5. Claims 6, 13-14 and 16 have been cancelled.
6. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended.
7. Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 15 now, re-numbered as claims 1-12 are pending.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed 12/28/2005 have been fully considered and they are persuasive in light of the agreement reached on the interview conducted on 02/28/2006 (see attached interview summary) and in the light of the fig.1-5 and associated text with respect the embodiment in which the invention is implemented.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 15 are allowed.

10. Any comments considered necessary by the applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "comments on statement of reasons for allowance."

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kambiz Zand whose telephone number is 571-272-3811. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (8:00-5:00). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 571-272-3799. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-272-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


KAMBIZ ZAND
PRIMARY EXAMINER

02/28/2006

AU 2132